

Project Sammaan is an urban sanitation initiative dedicated to redesigning and improving facilities for slum communities across India, beginning in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The objective is to rethink the current models of sanitation facilities and design a new programmatic infrastructure and physical structure that instills a sense of dignity while addressing issues affecting sanitation practices in India and encouraging community members to stop the practice of open-defecation.

A total of 119 of these re-imagined facilities will be built and a dedicated research team will analyze the qualitative and quantitative impact they have on the communities which house them. The results of this intensive research will be shared in an open-sourced toolkit that will allow for replication in cities across India and beyond.

Project Sammaan was born out of the research conducted for the Potty Project ([pottyproject.in](http://pottyproject.in)), an in-depth design research study focused on all aspects of the current sanitation models employed in urban slum communities throughout India, with specific focus on understanding three things:

- The end-user experience at community toilet facilities within urban slums in India
- End-user perceptions, attitudes, and mental models around sanitation and hygiene
- The “supply side” aspects of community sanitation in slums including things such as pricing, operations & maintenance, caretaking, and business models.

The project is a unique innovation initiative due to the diversity of the organizations working on it: design firms, government bodies, empirical researchers, architectural firms, waste management experts, community engagement specialists, and an interface management team. This amalgamation of seemingly disparate entities provides a robust and exhaustive approach that ensures community members’ needs are designed for, the facilities are both functional and valued, and the effectiveness of the engagement is thoroughly evaluated.

We feel that sharing our successes, and hurdles, is vital to the project as it will open channels of dialogue and instill a sense of collaboration in such a critical field. As such, we encourage you to visit the project website ([projectsammaan.com](http://projectsammaan.com)), engage us with your comments, and join us in exploring sanitation innovation that has the potential to improve millions of lives.

Also, you can contact me directly with any questions or if you’d like any additional information on this project.

Regards,

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